

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 IO-13 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 MCE-00
AID-05 /089 W

-----060775 311616Z /50

O R 311400Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1288
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USICA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 2433

USEEC

BONN/LONDON PLEASE PASS CHRISTOPHER PARTY
DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY PARTY
USDOCOSOUTH PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SPIERS
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USICA FOR IOP/M, IPS/PE, IBS/PN, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, OTRA (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON RESULTS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT
43*: A) ANKARA 2379 (DTG 301300Z MAR 78), B) ANKARA 2381

(DTG 301340Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 31 PRESS COVERAGE OF RESULTS OF DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO ANKARA WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE. ABSENCE OF DETAILS ON TALKS REFLECTED GOT'S SUCCESS SO FAR IN KEEPING THEM CLOSELY HELD. PRESS CONTAINS HINTS THAT ECEVIT GOVERNMENT MAY BE PORTRAYED AS WINNING FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS. END SUMMARY END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. THE MFA'S MARCH 10 ANNOUNCEMENT (REF A) ON THE TALKS, HELD THE PRECEDING DAY WITH PRIMIN ECEVIT AND OTHER HIGH GOT OFFICIALS BY DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER AND PARTY, WAS FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN VIRTUALLY ALL TURKISH DAILIES MARCH 31. LEFTIST (PRO-GOVERNMENT) AND INDEPENDENT PAPERS GAVE THE STORY TOP PROMINENCE, AND ALTHOUGH CONSERVATIVE (PRO-OPPOSITION) PAPERS DOWNPLAYED THE STORY (AND SEMI-OFFICIAL ORGANS OF THE RIGHTIST NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY IGNORED IT ENTIRELY), VIRTUALLY ALL HEADLINES WERE IN POSITIVE VEIN.

3. MOST COMMON THEME OF MAIN HEADLINES WAS THAT CONCRETE PROPOSALS WERE MADE, WITH OTHER HEADS AND SUBHEADS FREQUENTLY HIGHLIGHTING MFA STATEMENT THAT TALKS TOOK PLACE "IN A POSITIVE AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." INDEPENDENT, MASS CIRCULATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HURRIYET'S HEADLINE, "WE SETTLED THINGS WITH THE AMERICAN DELEGATION", WAS GIVEN SLIGHTLY BELLIGERENT CAST BY SUBHEADS ALLEGING TURKS MADE STRONG DEMANDS AND AMERICANS SHOWED FEAR OF RUSSIANS. INDEPENDENT, SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN, WHICH NORMALLY RELEGATES SUBSTANTIVE STORIES TO ITS SECOND SECTION, HAD LARGE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE, "RELATIONS WITH AMERICA ARE BEING PUT IN ORDER" WITH SUBHEAD, "ECEVIT'S DECISIVE STAND SOFTENED CARTER." MODERATE LEFTIST MILLIYET HEADLINED "TURK-USA TALK WAS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE", WHILE LEFTIST, OFTEN ANTI-US CUMHURİYET RAN HEADLINE, "ANKARA ANNOUNCED OPTIMISM ON RELATIONS WITH USA." MOST NEGATIVE HEADLINE WAS ON LARGE, INSIDE PAGE STORY IN PRO-JUSTICE PARTY SON HAVADIS SAYING, "MFA MADE ANNOUNCEMENT ON CHRISTOPHER CONTACTS BUT TURKISH-AMERICAN DIALOG'S GOAL WAS NOT MADE PUBLIC".

4. THE MFA ANNOUNCEMENT FORMED MOST OF THE CONTENT OF THE MAJORITY OF STORIES, WITH THE EVIDENT ABSENCE OF ANY INFORMATION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS HAVING A LIMITING EFFECT IN PROPORTION TO THE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS' CUSTOMARY DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY ON FACTS IN THEIR REPORTING. MORE SENSATIONAL PAPERS SUCH AS HURRIYET AND GUNAYDIN SHOWED THE MOST IMAGINATION IN REPORTING ALLEGED DETAILS, WHILE OTHER PAPERS LEANED ON REHASHES OF BACKGROUND DETAILS TO FILL

OUT THEIR STORIES. YANKI NEWS SERVICE STORY IN CONSERVATIVE
TERCUMAN, HOWEVER, QUOTED "AN OFFICIAL FROM THE HIGHEST
LEVEL OF THE MFA" AS SAYING AFTER TALKS, "IT HAS BEEN
UNDERSTOOD FROM THIS HOW CORRECT THE POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN
FOLLOWED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN. IT IS BECOMING
POSSIBLE FOR SPRING WEATHER TO EMERGE ONCE AGAIN BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES."

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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USEEC

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5. EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE DEPSEC'S VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY
CONFINED TO LARGEST PAPERS.

--ALI SIRMEN IN CUMHURIYET SPECULATES THAT THE
TALKS CENTERED AROUND AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF THE
TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) AND ATTEMPTS
TO CONVINCE TURKEY THAT IT MUST SUBMIT CONCRETE PROPOSALS
ON CYPRUS BEFORE THE US ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED; NOTING AN
EARLIER REPORT THAT PRIMIN ECEVIT HAS GIVEN THE US UNTIL MAY
30 TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, HE SAID THAT "60 HOT DAYS" OF IMPORTANT
DECISIONS LIE AHEAD FOR ECEVIT.

--GUNAYDIN'S TEOMAN EREL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS
NOT KNOWN WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSALS CONTAINED, IT MAY
BE ASSUMED THAT CARTER WILL MAKE A POSITIVE STATEMENT TO
CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE EMBARGO; HE MAY OR MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO GET A REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO THROUGH CONGRESS, BUT AT
THIS POINT THE KEY DEVELOPMENT TO AWAIT IS CARTER'S PROPOSALS
TO THE CONGRESS.

-- OKTAY EKSI IN HURRIYET OBSERVES THAT IT HAS BEEN
OBVIOUS SINCE ECEVIT'S GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER THAT A NEW
VITALITY WOULD EMERGE IN TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY. US ALARM
AT ECEVIT'S REMARKS FOLLOWING "VANCE'S BLUNDER" IN THE SENATE,
WHICH WERE IN THE NATURE OF AN ULTIMATUM TO THE US, MAY HAVE
BEEN BEHIND THE VISIT OF THE CHRISTOPHER DELEGATION, ACCORDING
TO EKSI.

-- GUNERI CIVAOGU IN TERCUMAN ARGUES THAT, EVEN IF
ECEVIT HAD NOT MADE HIS "WELL-CALCULATED REACTION" TO VANCE'S
STATEMENT AND PRODUCED "AN ARTIFICIAL TENSION" IN US-TURKISH
RELATIONS, THE US ADMINISTRATION HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO APPLY
TO CONGRESS FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, SINCE REPRESENTATIVE
DIGGS' SIGNATURE ON THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY SHOWS THAT THE 23-VOTE BLACK CAUCUS
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HAS SHIFTED IN FAVOR OF TURKEY.

--ABDI IPEKCI WRITES IN MILLIYET THAT "THE IMPRESSION
IS THAT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS, IN GENERAL, ADOPTED
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ECEVIT IN HIS TALKS WITH SECSTATE
VANCE" AND THAT US PROPOSALS THEREFORE MET FAVORABLE RESPONSE.
IPEKCI ALSO SAID IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US DELEGATION

REFRAINED FROM REQUESTING TURKISH ASSURANCES ON CYPRUS PROPOSALS,
INSTEAD STATING USG'S CONFIDENCE IN THE GOT'S GOOD WILL,
AND THAT THE TALKS HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON
HAS BEGUN TO MAKE A BETTER ASSESSMENT OF REALITIES IN US-TURKISH
RELATIONS.

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6. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTING AND SPECULATION ON ALLEGED
DETAILS OF DEPSEC'S TALKS WITH GOT HAVE SO FAR REMAINED GENERALLY
WIDE OF THE MARK, INDICATING THAT SO FAR THE GOT HAS MANAGED
MUCH BETTER THAN USUAL IN KEEPING NEWS BOTTLED UP. LEAKS ARE
VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE, HOWEVER, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT DETAILS,
OR AT LEAST CLOSER AND CLOSER APPROXIMATIONS OF THE FACTS,
WILL BEGIN SURFACING IN THE PRESS VERY SOON.

7. SCATTERED STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS THAT THE NEW
AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE THE RESULT OF CORRECT FOREIGN POLICY
STAND BY ECEVIT SUGGEST THAT GROUNDWORK PERHAPS IS BEING LAID
FOR ATTRIBUTING A FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS TO ECEVIT.

END COMMENT

DILLON

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Message Attributes

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